



Idaho Sound Beginnings

Dear Parent:

Your baby's most important learning will take place between birth and four years of age.

In order for your baby to learn how to communicate with other people he must have normal hearing. You, the parent, are the best person to find out if your baby has normal hearing. As the weeks and months go by you can be observing your baby's reaction to new sounds.

If you suspect your baby has a hearing problem, tell your doctor or public health nurse immediately so that an accurate test of your baby's hearing can be made by an audiologist. Your baby's hearing can be tested at any age.

It is vital that a baby with impaired hearing receive proper management and special training as early as possible.



Reminders:

Take time to listen and talk with your child beginning at birth. Your baby learns by hearing and watching you. Prolonged exposure to loud noise can damage hearing and should be avoided.

If you have to speak loudly or repeat a lot to get your child's attention, an audiologist should evaluate his hearing.

CAN YOUR BABY HEAR YOU?

EARLY DETECTION IS THE KEY TO HELPING A CHILD WITH HEARING LOSS!

These questions are provided as a means of observation, not a test.

From Birth to 4 Months, Does Your Baby:



- Jump or blink when there is a sudden loud sound?
- Stir or awaken from sleep with a voice or loud noise?
- Is your baby quieted by the sound of a familiar voice?



From 4 Months to 7 Months, Does Your Baby:

Turn eyes and head as if looking towards the direction of a sound or voice?

Stir or awaken from sleep with a loud sound or someone talking?

Jump with a start if there is a loud noise?

Begin to enjoy the sound of his own noises, coos, babbling, etc?

From 7 to 9 Months, Does Your Baby:

Respond by turning head and eyes to locate the source of sound?

Begin to show understanding of words like "no" and "bye-bye"?

Stir or awaken from sleep with a loud sound or someone talking?

From 9 to 12 Months, Does Your Baby:

Turn his head in any direction to locate interesting sounds such as a bell?

Imitate simple sounds and words such as "da-da", "go" and "bye-bye"?

From 12 Months to 2 Years, Does Your Baby:



Point to familiar objects when asked?

Follow simple directions, "Point to your nose", etc?

First words are well on their way "go", "bye-bye", "no", "out".

